

PUBLIC SERVICE OF MAYOR TOM JELEPIS OF BAY VILLAGE, OH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service of one of the best mayors from northeast Ohio's local communities. This year marks the last and final year of the term of Mayor Tom Jelepis of Bay Village, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland. Tom is choosing to pursue other challenges down the road, and this marks his final few months of public service as Bay Village's respected mayor.

The entire Bay Village community and the adjoining West Shore communities owe Tom a debt of gratitude. Thanks to Tom's remarkable ability to forge a consensus in resolving one of the most daunting threats to the Bay Village and West Shore quality of life, represented by the agreement reached in June, 1998 to halt the proposed tripling of train traffic following the acquisition of Conrail by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads. When the announcement was made in August, 1997 that train traffic would likely be more than tripled through the quiet, densely populated communities along Cleveland's West Shore communities, Tom Jelepis was one of the first public officials to begin to forge a large bipartisan coalition to find a reasonable alternative, an alternative which would stop the train traffic increase and would preserve Bay Village's and the West Shore's attractive quality of life.

It was Tom's relentless perseverance, his ability to reach out to find common ground and consensus, and his enviable charm and wit that managed to bring people together to find a workable agreement that helped hundreds of thousands of local residents. Without Tom Jelepis' involvement, there would likely not have been a positive outcome, a result which halted the proposed tripling of train traffic and brought forward a plan beneficial to all parties and local communities. I had the pleasure to work side by side with Tom Jelepis throughout this challenging time, and I can say with confidence that he represents the very best in public service. His dedication, his sense of decency, and his sincerity is unmatched in public life.

There are very few people in public life—no, in all aspects of life—with Tom Jelepis' unique combination of charm, wit, perseverance, and grace. He is my friend, and I am proud that he is my friend. He is a natural, as a businessman, as a family man, as a community leader, and as a mayor. The entire Bay Village community owes him a genuine "thank you" for his many years of service.

I hold a deep and sincere respect for Tom Jelepis and I wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BENNIE HOLMES, JR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sadness that I rise to honor the

life of Bennie Holmes Jr., who passed away recently at too young an age. Mr. Holmes' leadership in the civil rights movement and as an anti-poverty activist earned him the respect of our entire San Francisco community; his caring heart and kind ways earned him our affection. Bennie's presence in the community can never be replaced, but the work of his life will live on after him.

Bennie was born and reared in McComb, Mississippi, and it was there that he learned the values of hard work, community, and his deeply rooted sense of justice. In the late 1950's, he moved to California, and in 1961 he graduated from Monrovia High School in Los Angeles County. He later moved to San Francisco and continued his education at San Francisco State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Holmes worked much of his life for racial equality. He helped to found the N.A.A.C.P. Junior Chapter at Pasadena College in 1961. In 1964 he organized a group from San Francisco which joined the 1964 march for civil rights that went from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He fought continually for the cause of civil rights with the Congress On Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and with such individuals as Martin Luther King, Jr. and James Farmer.

Dedicated to fighting poverty and improving the lives of low-income residents, Bennie worked most of his professional life with the Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco. For the past thirty-three years, Bennie was employed by this nonprofit group in several different capacities. He organized and raised money for numerous anti-poverty programs in San Francisco and worked to clothe, feed, and find employment for the neediest among us. Known and trusted by everyone, Bennie was regarded as the "eyes and ears" of the community because he was always looking out for those in need.

Mr. Holmes also organized workshops at which tenants learned their rights when dealing with landlords, worked with youth groups, and chaired the Direct Action Committee and Study Group through which he traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

Well-regarded for his tireless community service, Bennie was also admired for his delicious barbecue ribs. At social and political events, he could always be found behind the grill, serving the community in yet another way.

Bennie Holmes left us much too soon. He worked his entire life for civil rights, equal opportunity, and economic and social justice. He treated everyone with respect, and he was respected for doing so. His passing is a loss to all of our San Francisco community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Leola Wells Holmes, his children, and his entire family.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF OLIVE WHITMORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Olive Whitmore.

Ms. Whitmore, a native of Cleveland, is the oldest of 3 children. Her birthday, October 14, 2000, marks the 100th year of her active life. She lived in Cleveland for 76 years, which made her well known in her community. She holds the longest term as a member of the West Boulevard Christian Church, which she has belonged to since she was 3 years of age. Prior to her move to South Westerly in 1983, she was a charter member of the Order of Eastern Star and Electa. Her talented voice contributed to the choir under the direction of Charles Dawes of the "Cleveland Orchestra." The choir was well recognized for their performance during the first 4th of July celebration at the Cleveland Municipality Stadium. Her former community fondly remembers her also for the time she was employed helping customers in Halle's Department store between 1957 and 1970. After her retirement she continued her active lifestyle, and became a noted traveler, traveling to Nova Scotia and throughout the United States.

Olive Whitmore is a cherished treasure for her family, friends, and community. Her spark, friendly smile, kindness and caring for others has touched countless Clevelanders who have had the honor of knowing her. Olive is a young 100, demonstrating that one's positive attitude and perseverance throughout one's life can carry you a long, long way. Olive Whitmore is loved by many.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Ms. Olive Whitmore on this momentous occasion of her 100th birthday.

"TRIAL" OF IRANIAN JEWS IS A
CASE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express outrage over the sentences handed down on July 1st in Iran against ten of thirteen Iranian Jews who were recently put on trial in that country. These people, who were charged with the crime of practicing their religion, were unfairly imprisoned for over a year while waiting for the Iranian government to conduct its trial. Now they have been found guilty in a sham legal proceeding.

The trial—if it can be called a trial—was political intimidation not a judicial proceeding. This is a court with no jury, and one which holds its trials behind closed doors with the "judge" serving as both prosecutor and judge. The defendants were not able to choose their own representation in court.

Furthermore, the thirteen individuals were not even indicted on the original charges that were brought against them. Originally the thirteen were arrested for teaching Hebrew and holding religious classes, and on these charges they were detained for over a year before being tried by the Iranian Revolutionary Court. It is significant that after detaining these innocent people on these trumped up charges for over a year, the Court was unable to provide any evidence other than the coerced confessions of the detainees.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the actions of President Clinton, Secretary Albright and other Administration officials, as well as